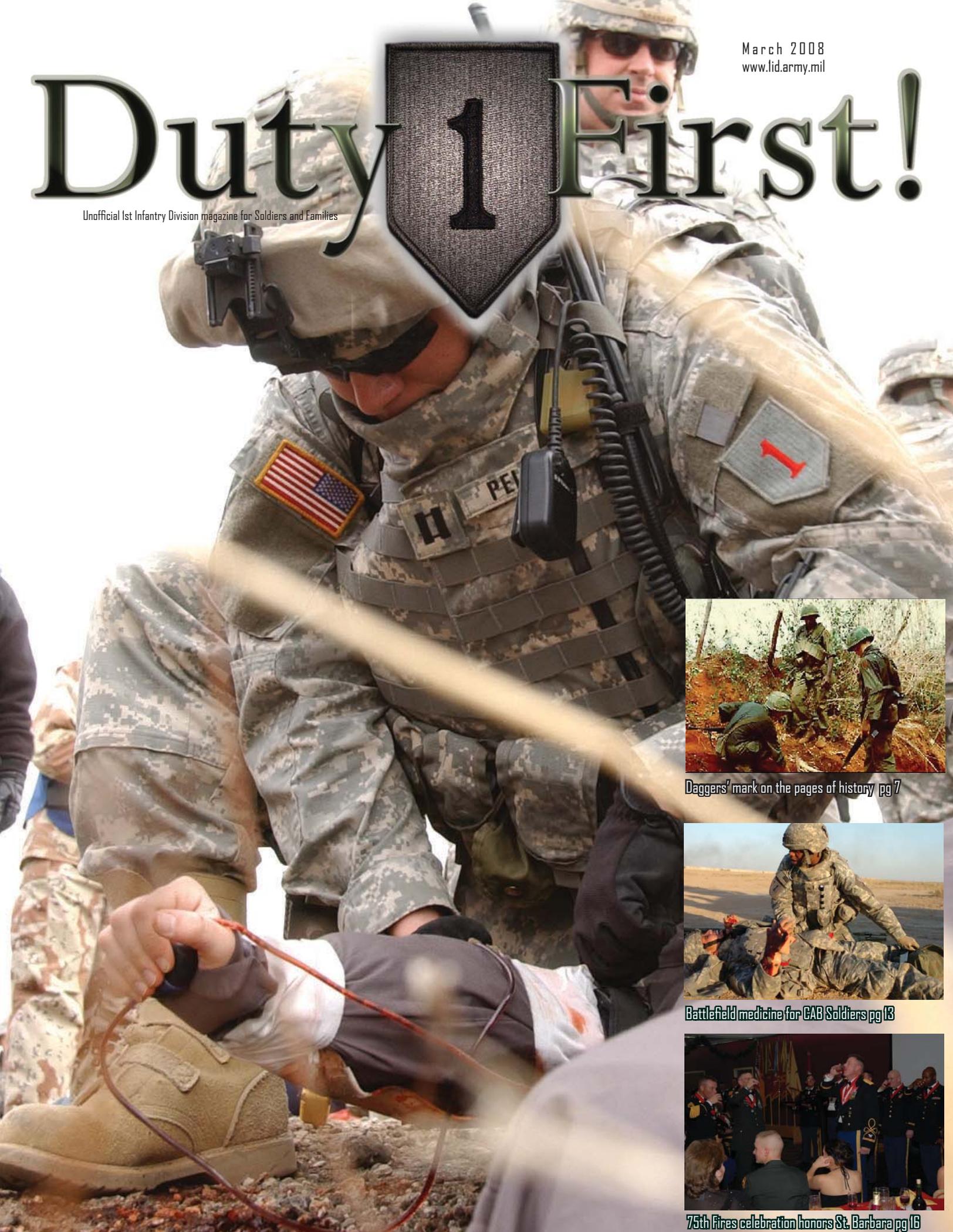


March 2008
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Duty 1 First!

Unofficial 1st Infantry Division magazine for Soldiers and Families



Daggers' mark on the pages of history pg 7



Battlefield medicine for CAB Soldiers pg 13



75th Fires celebration honors St. Barbara pg 16



The BRO

CREED

TEAMWORK is the foundation of the Big Red One. I shall never fail my team, for I maintain the standard. My conduct and self-discipline sets the example for others to follow.

HONOR is what I stand for—an American Soldier on duty for my country. My loyalty is intense. I display care for my fellow Soldiers and my chain-of-command through courage, respect, integrity and compassion.

I have learned to **ENDURE**, to thrive in adversity. The harsh reality of combat gives me the enthusiasm for realistic training. I am physically and mentally strong to meet the demanding situations my unit encounters.

We are one in the Big Red One. Our **BROTHERHOOD** gives us strength to fight on to any objective and accomplish the mission as our veterans have done before us. I live the legacy of my division.

READINESS is my priority. To be ready for any mission, anytime, anywhere. My business is first-class training and living high standards of care and equipment, weaponry, and tactical and technical competence.

My **ORGANIZATION** is my strength. The BRO is bigger than any one individual. It gives me purpose, self-confidence, competitive spirit, intestinal fortitude, and the desire to fight with all my heart.

No mission too difficult.

No sacrifice too great.

Duty First!

Danger 6: The Importance of Caring.....pg 3

Danger 7: Caring through leadership.....pg 4



Photo by Spc. Nathaniel Smith

Springfield, Mo., native Pvt. Jeremy Letner, an infantryman on the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division personal security detachment, hops back in his Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle during a mission in southern Baghdad's Doura Region. The 4th IBCT "Dragons" have been deployed to Forward Operating Base Falcon in the Rashid District since February 2007.

Devils advance their skills..... pg 5

Sustaining fuel farms..... pg 6

The mark Daggers left..... pg 7

Bulldogs and pups..... pg 9

Dukes learn new Army device, pg 10

Just another day as a Dragon.... pg 11

Cover Photo: Transition Team members practice combat-lifesaver skills on one of Fort Riley's simulation ranges.

CAB trains in battlefield medicine.....pg 13

Death knocking on your battle's door?..... pg 15

Diamonds keep tradition alive.....pg 16

Duty First! Magazine

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Correction: The article titled "Blogs" in the February issue was incorrectly attributed. The correct author of the article is April Blackmon, Fort Riley's Community Relations Specialist.

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From the Commanding General: The Importance of Caring

1st Infantry Division Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin

Our Army and the Big Red One have accomplished much in six years of war. There is no doubt that we are training and maintaining as well as we ever have, and I am proud of how the Big Red One continues to lead from the front in all aspects of combat.

As it always has been in the history of the 1st Infantry Division, our success is a direct result of the service, sacrifice and courage of Soldiers and their Families. Big Red One Soldiers have slugged it out in many wars, most recently in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our Families endure these hardships with resolution, commitment and patriotism. I cannot adequately express my admiration and respect for you, the 1st Infantry Division Soldier and your Families.

What I can do, though, is work to provide you and your Family with support, services and a quality of life commensurate with you and your Family's service, sacrifice and courage. I call this "Caring."

"Caring" is my highest priority, the division's top priority and Fort Riley's top priority. This doesn't mean that training and maintenance aren't important. In fact, nothing is more important at the brigade, battalion, company and platoon levels. But at the division and installation levels, I am focusing much energy and many resources toward Caring.

This means that I am going to ensure our Warrior Transition Battalion is the very best in taking care of our wounded and injured Soldiers; that these Wounded Warriors get everything they need and much more. Caring means that single Soldiers will see significant quality of life improvements in the form of new barracks, new support facilities, new outdoor recreation facilities and high-quality fitness centers. Caring means that Families see new housing, new and more child care facilities, a new PX and an expanded Commissary.

Support in the form of new buildings and facilities is important. But Soldiers and Families deserve even more. Caring goes beyond bricks and mortar – Caring is a culture of vibrancy and enthusiasm in providing the very best overall quality of life for Soldiers and Families. It's not what we must do; it's what we want to do. Caring is what Soldiers and Families deserve, and it's what good leaders want.

Caring means that the "tie goes to the runner." In baseball, this means that if the play is too close to call, the umpire rules in favor of the base-runner. The same goes for our support for Soldiers and Families. If leaders face a tough decision, I want us to lean in favor of supporting Soldiers and Families. In the past, we have been conservative in our decisions; now, if there is any leeway, I want leaders to tip the scales in favor of Soldiers and Families.

Additionally, when it comes to Caring, exceptions to policy should become more routine. Why? Many of the regulations that govern support for Soldiers and Families were written in peacetime. We are not at peace; we are at war and have been for more than six years. Thus, leaders must consider regulations, but should gain exceptions to policy when those regulations or policies don't make sense in today's environment.

"Caring" occurs only through effective leadership at all levels of command in the Big Red One, Partner Organizations and our dispersed units such as 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Fort Knox, Ky., and 75th Field Artillery Fires Brigade, Fort Sill, Okla. This is why "Leadership" is my next highest priority, and one I will explain in the next issue of *Duty First!*, and Command Sgt. Maj. Savitski addresses in this issue.

Until then, make it your personal mission to live the Division motto: No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great. Duty First! 



From the Command Sergeant Major: Caring through Leadership

1st Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. (acting)
Command Sgt. Maj. James Savitski

All Soldiers deserve outstanding leadership. Do you provide that leadership? The most important person in a young Soldier's life is his or her first-line leader or supervisor. This is not an opinion- it's a fact I've seen proven over and over in my almost 30 years in the United States Army. Therefore, this column is directed at all the 1st Infantry Division's first-line leaders and supervisors.

First, I have to clear up a misconception: first-line leaders aren't just sergeants. If you rate a Soldier – officer or enlisted – you are a first-line supervisor. If you are a squad leader, platoon sergeant, first sergeant, company commander, sergeant major, battalion, brigade or division commander, you are somebody's first-line supervisor.

So, first-line leaders and supervisors, what have you done today to develop and train your Soldiers to make our Army better? What have you done today to ensure that your Soldiers know what right looks like through your personal example?

What have you done today to prepare them to be better Soldiers and leaders? What have you done even this week or month to help them grow professionally and personally?

I'm talking about taking time out of your busy day to mentor, counsel and train. Are you taking time on a daily basis to ensure your Soldiers know why we do things the way we do? Are you taking time to ensure they know how to do things correctly - within Army and Big Red One standards?

Now is the time to train your Soldiers to understand why following orders can sometimes make a difference in life or death situations. This takes time. It also takes a compassionate, caring leader in today's Army. Help them understand the Soldier who follows your orders today will be the first-line leader tomorrow. In training them, you are training the future of the Army.

The same goes for counseling. counseling is an integral part of molding our Soldiers into future leaders. Counseling – good, bad, monthly or event-oriented – is for the benefit of everyone involved. Verbal counseling should be done on the spot, but documentation is still important. If as leaders you don't document important incidents, you missed an opportunity to teach, learn and grow as a supervisor. If it's

important, write it down.

Monthly counseling allows you to get to know your Soldier and set realistic, obtainable goals. It shows them exactly what you expect of them on a daily basis. It gives them direction to achieve and improve in those areas. It takes time on your part as a leader to sit down and document everything that happened during that month, and also shows your Soldiers that you care about their welfare.

We all know that time is precious and how we spend it is important. When you choose to give time to one thing, you are deliberately neglecting something else. That's not always a bad thing, it's just reality.

If you'll give me some of your time, I'd like to focus on two opposing yet prominent messages in our Army culture.

“Get back to work!” and “What are you still doing here?” Leaders, you are sending mixed messages if you release your Soldiers and overload them with missions at the same time.

The Army will keep you busy 24/7 if you let it. Some leaders try to almost achieve that.

I saw a sample of an NCOER that was giving a positive bullet to an NCO for putting in 80-hour weeks. My thought was, “What kind of leader is he really if all his time is consumed with his job? What does that say about the rater if he sees an 80-hour work-week as something to admire?”

Don't get me wrong, I am all for hard work, but what about mental down time, Family time, relaxation, recreation and restoration? You can run on empty for only so long and it will catch up with you physiologically and psychologically. Set realistic dealines and reasonable expectations so Soldiers can spend time relaxing and come in each day refreshed and ready to go.

So, first line supervisors are you up to the challenge? I'm willing to bet most of you are more than ready. We can all learn from each other everyday. Ask, talk and confide in your fellow peers.

All Soldiers deserve outstanding leadership, Will you provide that leadership? Take care of your Soldiers. They are America's sons and daughters. Give them the most important resource you have – your time. 



What it takes to be a TT Member

By Spc. Dustin Roberts, 1st BDE PAO

FORT RILEY, Kan.- The exit strategy for the U.S. Army in Iraq and Afghanistan requires amazingly flexibility. One versatile solution is Transition Team training at Fort Riley.

What does it take to be a TT member entirely trained and ready to advise Iraqi Security Forces or the Afghan National Army on various tactics, techniques and procedures?

It all starts at Forward Operating Base Army Strong on Camp Funston, Fort Riley.

The 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, runs the TT show. Trained 1st Brigade cadre crawl, walk and run TT trainees through everything that the team members need to know in 60 days.

Teams deploying to Iraq average 11 Soldiers, Sailors or Airmen while teams deploying to Afghanistan average 16 servicemembers.

Each servicemember has a specific advisory mission within the group. They train their counterparts in logistics, basic Soldiering, leadership principles, intelligence, combat-life-saver skills and communication equipment.

“All the training that they do here keeps them safe in theater,” said Spc. Michael Weber, validation noncommissioned officer in charge. “The training also makes them better teachers and advisors to our counterparts. We want Iraq and Afghanistan to be able to sustain their own forces and without this training we won’t get to that point. It’s a constant learning process and we adjust what we do to make sure teams are getting the latest and greatest of training.”

What the servicemembers learn together at FOB Army Strong are the seven core competencies of Transition Team training:

1. Team support processes
2. Combat skills
3. Force protection
4. Technical and tactical training
5. Advisor skills
6. Understanding the culture
7. Counterinsurgency.

“These are the crucial things we tell them to focus on for their upcoming mission,” said Maj. Peter Shull, 1st Bde. operations officer.

Teams train more than 70 hours on a variety of weapons

such as the MK-19 grenade launcher, the M240B, M-249 and M-2 .50-caliber Machine guns.

“Some of the advisors are not familiar with these weapon systems,” Shull said. “With small teams like this, if they get into any trouble down range, they all have to be very technically proficient with all of their weapon systems.”

TT’s can spend a lot of time on the road when in Iraq or Afghanistan. To prepare for that combat experience, teams spend a total of 48 hours in driver’s training and mounted combat patrols. They also train with frequency jammers used to defeat road-side bombs or improvised explosive devices.

Along with the advanced “Shoot, move and communicate” skills of Soldiering, TT’s must learn as much as they can about the culture of their counterparts.

“Being an advisor is nothing more than being a great leader,” Shull said. “To be a good leader with foreign forces, you have to build a good rapport and connection with them.”

Since there can be words and meaning lost in the translation of their Iraqi or Afghan counterpart, the proper use to an interpreter is essential when solving problems and training

“To be a good leader with foreign forces, you have to build a good rapport and connection with them.”

Maj. Peter Shull

troops.

This is why TTs spend 24 hours in cultural awareness training, 32 hours in advisor training and about 44 hours learning their host nation’s language.

“Once an American advisor can make a connection with his counterpart, they will start listening to him,” Shull said. “If there was one thing that I could focus on while I was here, it would be the cultural awareness training.”

At the end of the training, each class participates in a 96-hour-long mission readiness exercise. In the MRX, the servicemembers are tested in everything they learned in like-real scenarios and missions.

When the MRX is over, TT’s are as ready for the real-world mission as they can be. They out-process, turn in equipment and prepare to be combat advisors; making progress towards a more stable and proficient Afghanistan and Iraq. 



1st Sustainment transforms fuel farm



Photo By Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Spc. Chris Griffith, a native of Stockbridge, Mich., and fuel specialist with the 192nd Quartermaster Company, fuels a truck at the bulk fuel farm Victory Base Complex, Iraq.

By Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude, 1st Sust. Bde. PAO

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – One year ago, the bulk fuel farm at Victory Base Complex, Iraq, was dirty, inefficient and in serious need of repair. Today, thanks to the hard work and diligence of some dedicated Army Reserve Soldiers, the bulk fuel farm is clean, orderly and highly efficient.

The Reserve battalion falls under training and readiness oversight of the 1st Sustainment Brigade.

“This place was in shambles,” said Spc. Chris Griffith, a native of Stockbridge, Mich., and fuel specialist with the 192nd Quartermaster Company, 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion out of Milan, Ohio.

“I think we hauled over 30 tons of trash out of here in our first month,” recalled Sgt. 1st Class Wilfredo Velez, the platoon sergeant for the 192nd QM Co. “This place was neglected for years.”

In the process of cleaning up the farm they separated materials into different categories like vinyl, wood, plastics and aluminum, and returned an estimated \$100,000 worth of discarded equipment back to the Army supply system.

The problem ran deeper than trash though. The fuel farm is the sole source for aviation fuel, diesel and gasoline for the greater Bagdad area, and at the time it was operating at about 25 percent of its capacity. Very few pumps worked properly, and the berms surrounding the fuel bags were in severe need of repair.

“When we arrived, six pumps worked,” Velez said.

Early on the team went to work on the pumps. They



increased the number of pumps from six to 12 and doubled capacity of each individual pump allowing 24 trucks to receive fuel at once instead of six.

“We went from one truck taking three hours to get fuel to fifteen minutes ... on a bad day,” Velez said proudly.

The goal of Maj. Phil Sharp, commander of the 192nd QM Co., was to focus on increased customer service and improving the overall look and functionality of the farm.

With just 34 Soldiers and 24 civilian contractors, the 192nd QM Co. did the work required by 100 people. They worked 12 hour shifts, traveled back and forth to work by bus, ate most of their meals at the farm and rarely complained.

“Their motivation comes from within,” Velez said. “They would be standing out in 130-degree temperatures working and still have a smile on their face.”

As they prepare to leave Iraq, the Soldiers of the 192nd QM Co., talk about the things they are looking forward to most upon their return home, such as driving, shopping and finishing degrees. When asked what they are most proud of they all agree, “The fuel farm.”

The largest fuel farm in Iraq serves customers all over Baghdad, and thanks to the hard work and diligence of the 192nd QM Co., the fuel farm has been completely transformed into a clean, orderly and highly efficient operation.



Photo By Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

The bulk fuel farm at Victory Base Complex, Iraq, one year ago when the 192nd Quartermaster Company arrived. The fuel berms were collapsing, the six fuel pumps were a jumbled mess, and the amount of trash in the area was estimated at 30 tons.

Daggers contribute to history

By Laura Stroda, 1st Inf. Div. PAO



Dagger (n.) – a sharp pointed knife for stabbing.

A dagger can serve as a deadly weapon in combat and the 1st Infantry Division's "Dagger" Brigade has been exactly that for nearly a century.

The 2nd Brigade has a long history of fighting for and defending freedom – serving since World War I as a deadly weapon of the Big Red One.

The Soldiers of Dagger Brigade were first thrown into the fight in May 1917, when the brigade was constituted



as part of the First Expeditionary Division – later known as the 1st Infantry Division.

Dagger Soldiers earned numerous campaign credits during "The Great War," including the Meuse-Argonne Offensive – the final offensive of World War I. It was the biggest operation and victory of the American Expeditionary Force in that war.

Daggers lead the way on D-Day

Soldiers from the Dagger Brigade's 16th and 18th Infantry Regiments led the push on the beaches of Normandy during the morning hours of June 6, 1944. They landed at Omaha Beach, one of the most heavily fortified beaches along the French coast.

Col. George Taylor led his 16th Inf. Regt. troops ashore at Omaha Beach that day, uttering a famous D-Day quote – "Two kinds of people are staying on this beach! The dead and those who are going to



die! Now, let's get the hell out of here!"

Divisional units participated in the Normandy Campaign throughout the summer of 1944 and subsequent operations across France and Germany until the end of the war. The brigade was inactivated on Jan. 15, 1945.

Charging into Vietnam

The 2nd Brigade went through a series of reactivations and inactivations before moving in January 1964 to Fort Riley, Kan., with the rest of the 1st Inf. Div. The brigade had a little more than a year to train up before being sent to the jungles of Vietnam.

On July 12, 1965, the Dagger Brigade landed at Cam Ranh Bay and Vung Tau, making it the first element of an infantry division to arrive in Vietnam.

The brigade earned 15 campaign streamers during Vietnam and returned to Fort Riley in 1969. Things were relatively quiet for the next two decades, but all that changed on Aug. 2, 1990.

Daggers storm into Saudi Arabia

Iraq invaded Kuwait and just a few short months later, the Dagger Brigade and 1st Inf. Div. were put on alert for deployment. The division deployed more than 12,000 Soldiers and 7,000 pieces of equipment to Saudi Arabia over the next two months.

Dagger Soldiers directly participated in the breach of Iraqi defenses in the initial stages of the coalition forces attack into Iraq.

The brigade earned campaign streamers for the defense of Saudi Arabia and the liberation of Kuwait during the 100-hour war.

Restationing, peace-keeping become focus

The Dagger Brigade moved to its current home in February 1996 when

Pride and honor of Big Red One

the 1st Inf. Div. cased its colors in Kansas and moved to Schweinfurt, Germany – where the division stayed for a decade.

A year after the move, the 2nd Brigade deployed units to Bosnia-Herzegovina to participate in Operation Joint Endeavor with the 1st Armored Division. With more than 5,000 soldiers, the 2nd Brigade participated in Operations Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard in Bosnia.

The Dagger Brigade served in Kosovo in 1999-2000 and again in 2002-2003. The brigade deployed to the Balkans twice in 1999, first as part of Task Force Sabre in Macedonia, then in Kosovo as part of Task Force Falcon. Task Force Falcon served as the U.S. component of the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) with the mission of conducting peacekeeping operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's Serbian Kosovo province.

The 2nd Brigade rotated to Kosovo again in 2002, this time focused on maintaining the secure environment established by coalition forces.

Daggers tour twice in support of OIF

In February 2004, the Dagger Brigade deployed to Northern Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in Iraq, the 2nd Brigade averaged 90 patrols a day, many of which were joint patrols conducted with Iraqi Security Forces.

The 2nd Brigade trained hundreds of Iraqi soldiers and policemen in an effort to help the Iraqi people help themselves. During the year, the 2nd Brigade spent more than \$17 million and completed more than 318 projects to better the quality of life for the Iraqi people. Some of these projects included building hospitals, schools, roads, water treatment plants, irrigation systems and seed and fertilizer distribution programs for the farmers.

In late 2006, the 2nd Brigade deployed again in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Dagger Brigade helped transition a hostile northwest Baghdad from a heavy, kinetic and costly fight to a secured population rid of extremists, criminals and terrorists, Dagger Brigade Commander Col. J.B.



Burton said during the brigade's redeployment ceremony last November.

Throughout their 15-month deployment they played a vital role moving Iraqis into the political process and the formal reconstruction of Baghdad and Iraq. Burton said all Iraqis, regardless of sect or religion, received equal municipal services, education, opportunity and a total improved quality of life.

Moving to new digs

The brigade was slated to return to the U.S. in 2010, but U.S. Army Europe announced in January that the Dagger Brigade move to Grafenwoehr, Germany.

The Soldiers and their Families will be moving to an installation in the midst of a \$700 million construction boom.

More than 50 percent of the upgrade is complete, including new living areas for single and married soldiers, an enlarged dining facility, a fitness center, and a PX and commissary complex that is the largest in Europe.

This move allows Dagger Soldiers to be closer to the state of the art training center in Grafenwoehr. ▀



Bulldogs learn to father pups

Illustration By Spc. Theresa M. Wiersgalla

Story by Spc. Theresa M. Wiersgalla, 3rd HBCT PAO

FORT RILEY, Kan.- In a hotel conference room sat 26 Soldiers with more than just one thing in common. Not only were they from the same battalion—they were also fathers.

Recently, under guidance from Lt. Col. Christopher Beckert, Commander, 1st Battalion 41st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, a Fathers Seminar was hosted by battalion Chaplain (Capt.) Dell Harlow-Curtis.

The Fathers Seminar was used as a force multiplier designed to prepare a Soldier for fatherhood and to strengthen relationships with his spouse.

“If a Soldier knows his Family is intact and properly provided for, he then can ‘keep his head in the fight’ and properly support his unit without fears of losing his Family,” said Harlow-Curtis.

This carefully structured seminar uses Biblically-based lectures designed for the specific needs of today’s father and with those he associates

“I use lectures, movies and music to communicate the celebration of the father’s role in the Family and to make (Soldiers) aware how society tears down the respect of male authority,” said Harlow-Curtis. “Also, I use community organizations like the Red Cross to give free instructive lectures on how to properly care for children. These classes range from diapering a child and holding a newborn to basic infant CPR.”

No matter what materials are presented to the participants at the seminar, the most critical aspect is the fathers gaining a better understanding of their place in the Family.

“I learned what a proper husband and father should be in a relationship and how to interact with my children,” said Spc. Jonathan Stemple, Co. A infantryman.

Another aspect of the seminar made participants aware of outside

influences, such as television and the internet, and how these outlets shaped their personalities.

It was an eye-opening experience for these Soldiers when they realized how media can influence society.

“Just watch television for one night’s lineup and you will feel convinced that men are uneducated, uncaring, selfish, self-seeking slobs,” said Harlow-Curtis.

During this three-day seminar, Soldiers were taught the basics of how to be better fathers and learned ways to be mature, kind and responsible in their roles.

“This seminar lets you see the reality of how you really are at home. I never realized how I was until some of the tests (were taken) and (the) information I learned. It was good to see other people who were just like you or similar and how they are to their wives,” said Pfc. Ricardo Garcia, Co. A infantryman.

The Army, Fort Riley and the Big Red One have recently shifted their focus to caring for Families.

Seminars like these are a great example of Soldiers being given the opportunity to better their lives at home. But it’s still a tough sell for some, Harlow-Curtis said.

“When I found out that I had to come to this seminar, I tried everything I could to get out of coming, but my wife loved the idea of me coming. I learned everything in life has to do with being a well-rounded father and good husband. If we incorporate the knowledge from this seminar, we will be better husbands and fathers,” said Spc. Eric Christopher, Co. F combat medic.

With the seminar complete and a group of fathers better prepared to handle their duties as “Dad,” the seminar leader was pleased with the opportunity to give back to his fellow Soldiers.

“Our unit commander, Lt. Col. Beckert, has tasked me to produce the Fathers Seminar because he sees value in teaching his men how to be proper fathers and loving, supporting husbands, and it is with his guidance that I have the privilege in facilitating this program,” said Harlow-Curtis. 



345th PSYOP team shows Dukes new Army device

Sgt. Adora S. Medina, 3rd IBCT PAO

FORT IRWIN, Calif.- The 345th Tactical Psychological Operations Company (Airborne) out of Dallas, Texas, assisted the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, during their unit rotation at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Ca.

The unit arrived Jan. 10, linked up with NTC contractors who provided them with two Long Range Acoustic Devices for use during the rotation.

The LRAD works by transmitting sound up to a certain range, allowing Soldiers to communicate their message to enemy forces, without even stepping foot into dangerous ground.

The LRAD provides options to standard line units.

“We can talk an occupant out of a vehicle without even getting into the kill zone, so if there’s a detonation we’ll still be safe,” said team chief Staff Sgt. Paul Campbell.

The device is beneficial to the Army because it can be used for many different combat operations such as; escalation of force, cordon and search, crowd and riot control and many other task-specific missions.

Though the Navy has already adopted this device for use during it’s operations, the Army has yet to put this system on the battlefield, The 345th (ABN) had the opportunity to be the first Army unit to use the device while conducting mobile operations.

Before the unit could test out the capabilities of the device, they had to complete a one-week course outlining the basic operation of the device.

Once equipped with the LRAD, the unit took to the field to fully get a taste of its abilities. Each system was operated by a three-man team, accompanied by an interpreter. For convoys that don’t have the luxury of an assigned interpreter, the device can be hooked up to a laptop. The computer sounds pre-recorded messages in any language can be sent through the system, as well as any other sounds appropriate for the mission.

The device even has the capability of zeroing in on a specific individual by use of its sights, enabling the operator to target a specific location and control where the sound is transmitted.

“We normally utilize loudspeakers or face-to-face communication. But with this device, if there’s a crowd in a normal riot situation you can find that instigator and direct it (the LRAD) toward a more specific individual,” Staff Sgt. Charles Andrews said.

Along with target control, the device also allows Soldiers to control the frequency. The sound can be turned up to a desired level of effectiveness. At maximum frequency the device may cause ear damage, and during the Situational Training Exercises at NTC, enemy role-players learned firsthand how powerful the sound can be.

“My teams have integrated well with the battalions and are being utilized to their full training capability;

we’ve also done a lot of team-building which has really drawn the detachment together,” Andrews said, “This is great training for the guys that haven’t been down range; it’s good to be in this desert, mountainous, environment, because it accurately simulates our operational environment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom”

Though the “Dukes” Brigade is still not positive of when and where it will deploy, they can take with them the experience gained at NTC and the hope that equipment like the LRAD will eventually find its way to the battlefield and save the lives of Soldiers. 



Sgt. Brandon Hudgins from the 345th Tact. PSYOP (ABN) Co., operates the Long Range Acoustic Device at NTC Jan 21. The unit is the first to test the LRAD during Army mobile operations.

Just another day as a Dragon

By Spc. Nathaniel Smith, 4th IBCT PAO

BAGHDAD – Benjamin Franklin once said, “For want of a nail, the shoe was lost. For want of a shoe, the horse was lost. For want of a horse, the rider was lost. For want of a rider, the battle was lost. For want of a battle, the kingdom was lost. And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.”

Such is the life of a deployed supply section: providing the warriors on the ground with every little piece of equipment, whether it’s something as simple as a screw or as complex as heavy weapons systems.

It’s not a simple task. But it’s one that the Supply Support Activity warehouse on Forward Operating Base Falcon – operated by Company A of the 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th IBCT, 1st Infantry Division – has embraced head-on since they deployed from Fort Riley, Kan., in February 2007.

Spc. Christopher Sherbak, an automated logistics specialist with “Atlas” Co., 610th BSB, said while the workload has been a challenge, he sees the silver lining.

“It’s made the deployment fly by so fast,” the Valparaiso, Ind., native said. “We get our breaks every now and then, but it’s fun here.”

He commented the momentum blurs the time.

“We have a huge workload, but that huge workload makes the day go by so fast,” Sherbak added.

Part of that huge workload comes from the fact that the 610th BSB’s warehouse supports not only Task Force Dragon units, but all units on FOB Falcon, tallying a total of nine battalions.

Killeen, Texas, native Sgt. Deangela Black, the stock control specialist

for the Phoenix’s SSA, said on top of supporting units on FOB Falcon, they assist other bases in the area when possible.

“We provide a lot of support for units at other FOBs. Say another base’s SSA doesn’t have a needed part, they call us,” she said. “If we have it on us, we coordinate to get them the part.”

Despite all the work going on at the 610th BSB’s warehouse in their little corner of the post,

the supply Soldiers’ day-to-day duties largely take place

behind the scenes, often unnoticed by ground-pounders.

Sherbak, who is on his first deployment, said that’s fine with him.

“Personally, that’s how I like it; I like being the one supporting all the guys out there,” he said. “I’ve been supply for four years now, and I’ve loved every year.”

Black, who is on her second deployment, said her job provides a sense of satisfaction by supporting the troops on



Photo By Spc. Nathaniel Smith

The supply support activity warehouse at Forward Operating Base Falcon in southern Baghdad supplies nine battalions. The warehouse is operated by “Atlas” Company, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division based at Fort Riley, Kan.

the ground.

“Even though I’m not going outside the wire, I feel good about my job because I know everyone here is supporting them with the necessary supplies they need to complete their mission,” she said. “I feel good about that. Without those supplies, they can’t do what they need to, so we all tie in together.”

With 5,500 lines of supplies, it’s no surprise the 610th BSB is capable of tying into everything going on in the Rashid District, from Aamel to Saha and Saydiyah to Doura.

Supporting an area of operations roughly equivalent to the size of Orlando, Fla., is no small task, and it’s one the “Phoenix” has accomplished for the past 11 months.

Yet Sherbak, who is married and has a 4 month-old son waiting at home, has no intention of letting up now and failing his fellow Soldiers. Instead, with the end of the deployment so close, his philosophy is simple.

“We’ll get there when we get there,” he said. ▀



1st Infantry Division at War

1

1st Infantry Division

Oldest continuously serving division in the United States Army. Over 7,500 Soldiers in three brigades and multiple subordinate units deployed.

Primarily located in Fort Riley, Kan.: training responsibility extends to three other states (Kentucky, Oklahoma and Texas) and a brigade in Germany.

Preparing for modularization in summer/fall FY09, with deployment thereafter.

1st Brigade, Fort Riley

Trains transition teams. As of March 2008, more than 7,000 servicemembers trained and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and more than 1,200 redeployed.

Transition Teams live and work with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the Afghan National Army (ANA).

Scheduled to modularize FY09.

2nd Brigade, Germany

Played a vital role moving Iraqis into the political process and the formal reconstruction of Baghdad and Iraq.

Moving to Grafenwoehr, Germany to have ready access to Grafenwoehr Training Area to prepare for future contingency operations.

Returned from 15 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in December 2007.



3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) , Fort Knox

Returned from deployment in fall 2006.

Provide theater logistics command and control for the theater commander supporting the Army Forces (ARFOR) or Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) mission.

Scheduled to deploy in summer/fall FY08

75th Fires Brigade, Fort Sill

Integrate attached ground and air maneuver forces and on order function as a maneuver headquarters in support of full spectrum operations.

Separate units currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

1

3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Fort Hood

One of the Army's newest brigades recently returned from rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif.

Prepared for deployment in summer/fall 2008.

3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Fort Riley

Preparing for rotation to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. in spring 2008.

Prepared for deployment in summer/fall 2008.

4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Iraq

Currently conducting combat and civil military operations in conjunction with Iraqi Army and Police in the Rashid District of Baghdad to restore and ensure long term peace and stability in that region.

Deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom February 2007

1st Sustainment Brigade, Iraq

Provides logistic, human resource, and financial management for 80,000 Soldiers and 20,000 civilians and contractors throughout Multi-National Division-Baghdad and area support for Multi-Nation Division-Central.

Deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom September 2007.

1st Combat Aviation Brigade Combat Team, Iraq

Conducts 360-degree battlefield operations with cutting edge technology to support ground troops.

Deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom October 2007

1st CAB trains in

Photo by Spc. Michael Howard

Pfc. Trung Van Tran of Company A, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, inserts an intravenous needle into the arm of Sgt. Bobby A. Reyes of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 601st ASB.

BATTLEFIELD MEDICINE

By Spc. Michael Howard, 1st CAB PAO

It has been said that in the heat of battle, a medic is a Soldier's best friend next to God. If that is the case, when the 601st Aviation Support Battalion's "Shadow" Platoon goes outside the wire for a mission, they've got a lot of best friends.

This is thanks in part to their recent combat lifesaver recertification and situational training exercise, which is but one example of the constant training the Soldiers receive to ensure that when they go outside the wire, they are as prepared as the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, can possibly make them.

The Department of the Army requires that 20 percent of Soldiers in a unit be combat-lifesaver certified. The 601st ASB teams aim to exceed that standard by a factor of five, with every Soldier on the quick reaction force capable of administering immediate medical care in the event of an injury. Consequently, every Soldier from Shadow Platoon attended the training one day and the other quick reaction force platoon, "Venom," went the next day.

For Shadow Platoon, the training began at 9 a.m. with slow-but vital-refresher training on nasopharyngeal airways, tourniquets and physical assessment of the casualty. Sgt. Kimberly LaCrosse, a combat medic and shift leader at the CAB troop medical clinic and, said that while the combat action tourniquet may not be the most exciting portion of the class, it is possibly the most vital.

“The CAT is 100-percent effective if put on correctly. With the cravat or the other items, it’s not perfect because you still have blood that comes out, but the tourniquet is 100-percent effective,” she said. “It’ll save a life quicker than anything.”

The training day continued with recertification on intravenous drips. These drips are a vital lifesaving tool because they can stabilize a Soldier with massive blood loss when nothing else can, said Spc. Ryan A. Moya, a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, CAB.

The course also covered medical tools of the trade and methods that have undergone improvement since Operation Iraqi Freedom began. The IVs now incorporate a saline lock, which can make it easier to administer an IV to a patient with a collapsed vein. Some Soldiers claimed that the IV insertion is one of the more difficult parts of the course to master.

“It’s hard to get it right. It’s hard to get the needle in the vein and get the flash and everything. But the training is solid, and my partner (Pfc. Michael R. LaPointe) did a great job on sticking me. I mean, there was a prick, but it could have been a lot worse. He did really well,” said Pfc. Bobbi Jo Michalski, a member of the Shadow Platoon.

After the recertification, the team headed outside for a situational training exercise. The course was tailored to meet the specific demands of the quick reaction force team.

The medics tasked a few Soldiers to role-play casualties, and “embedded” them with the other Soldiers. During the

training, the medics simulated an improvised explosive device hit by throwing water bottles at the vehicles.

The “casualties” then role-played their injuries and some of the non-injured personnel fell into their medic roles and performed tactical casualty care under fire. Simultaneously, other members of the force pulled perimeter security and called in a medical evacuation request before transporting the patients to a casualty collection point for evacuation.

During the training, the instructors added pressure to the situation by constantly reminding the Soldiers that time was a factor. LaCrosse said the reason for cranking up the pressure on these exercises is to eventually build the confidence that is vital in a successful medic under fire situations.

“We want them to learn to be confident in what they are doing, because if they’re not confident they’re going to mess up out there, and someone’s going to die if they don’t (use) the skills that I know are in them,” LaCrosse said.

Perhaps the most vital component to building both the confidence and skills necessary for the combat lifesavers to maintain the CAB’s zero casualties in combat record is treating the medical training as a never-ending process.

“Just tonight, we set up a time where I’m going to go over there once a week and keep them fresh on their (IVs). The training’s available for them as long as they want it,” LaCrosse said.

And there is no doubt that the Soldiers want the training. “We go outside of the gate every day, and lives are at stake,” Michalski said. “We need the classes and the training – they’re vital.”

Sgt. Gyasi Moore of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, reassures Pfc. Ramos V. Mendoza, who is role-playing a burn victim. At the same time Moore opens his combat lifesaver bag to treat the casualty.



Photo by Spc. Micheal Howard

Death knocking on your battle buddy's door?

Ask Care Escort

Three simple steps to helping out a battle buddy in need.

By Pfc. Francisca Vega, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

FORT RILEY, Kan.- Contrary to what most safety briefings before weekends would lead you to believe, privately own vehicle accidents are not the number one cause of non-combat deaths on Fort Riley. According to the Risk Management Program, it is suicide.

Since the beginning of this millennium, 75 Soldiers have died at Fort Riley from non-combat related incidents. Of those, 22 have been from someone taking their own life.

Actions follow Soldiers' thoughts when it comes to killing themselves, about seven percent more often than civilians, according to statistics from Fort Riley's RMP.

How or why this tragedy occurred is controversial and up for debate in barracks rooms or office, but each individual Soldier can do their part to help prevent this loss of life.

"I don't like to use statistics," said Chaplain David Shurtleff, (Lt. Col.), with the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Riley. "But one I do use is that 80 percent of those that commit suicide had a life wish (desire to stay alive.)"

Ask, Care, Escort is a process used by the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and

Preventive Medicine.

The acronym ACE can help people remember three easy steps to take if they find themselves with an opportunity to save someone's life.

Ask your battle buddy flat-out if they are planning to kill themselves.

Care for them by taking action and ensuring they don't have an opportunity to act on their thought.

Escort them to someone that is able to help them, such as a chaplain or medical assistance.

These steps are obviously not only effective on Soldiers, but on all those who feel overwhelmed with life, and feel death is the only solution for their troubles.

A suicide lowers the morale of the unit and everyone who depends on that Soldier.

"I believe no man is an island," Shurtleff went on. "Everyone has someone they will impact if they die."

According to the USACHPPM, people who think about suicide are usually surprised to find out how many people care for them. Be that surprise and save a life. 



Who's at risk?

- Males are more likely to commit suicide, and of them White males are most at risk.
- The most frequent reason for committing suicide is a breakup in a relationship.
- Junior enlisted Soldiers commit suicide most frequently.

According to Risk Management Program

Diamonds keep traditions alive

By Sgt. 1st Class Kelly McCargo, 75th Fires PAO

FORT SILL, Okla.—“The theme for our Saint Barbara’s Day Ball was ‘Respecting Our History; Honoring Our Future.’ It is the quality of people, our solid traditions, and a deep history that distinguish the field artillery from other branches,” said Lt. Col. John Sims, deputy commander, 75th Fires Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. “These are the foundations upon which our success and glory are built.”

More than 630 Fort Sill 75th Fires Brigade Soldiers and spouses participated in the recent 75th Fires Bde. Saint Barbara’s Day Ball at the Fort Sill Patriot’s Club.

The Diamond troops enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing, video presentations and skits that profiled the history of the field artillery from its earliest conception.

More than 34 Diamond troops were inducted into the Order of Saint Barbara for making “a significant contribution to the artillery through an outstanding degree of professional competence and service to the field artillery corps,” said Sims.

Fourteen spouses were also presented the Molly Pitcher Award for devoted and faithful service to the field artillery community.

“An artillery wife, Mary Hays-McCauly—better known as Molly Pitcher—shared the rigors of Valley Forge with her husband, William Hays,” said Sgt. Denitra McDowell, 100th Brigade Support Battalion, Fort Sill Soldier of the Year.

McCauly was said to have braved active battlefields to bring water to Soldiers from battle position to battle position. Then fatefully, she witnessed her husband getting injured during a battle, so she quickly took up his artillery gun crew position to rally the remaining crewmen during an entire battle.

“For her heroic actions General (George) Washington himself issued her a warrant as a noncommissioned officer,” said McDowell. “A flagstaff and a cannon stand at her gravesite at Carlisle, Penn. A sculpture on the battle monument commemorates her courageous deed.”

“The Saint Barbara’s Day Ball is not only about honoring our lineage but commemorating Field Artillery Soldiers and their spouses,” said Col.

Dominic Pompelia, 75th Fires Bde. commander. “On this night, I salute the Diamond Brigade family and want to thank each of them for their service to our country during this time of war. I’m proud of the Diamond Brigade for all of our accomplishments world wide. Tough As Diamonds!”

Maj. Gen. Peter Vangel, Fort Sill Garrison commanding general, encouraged all in attendance to be proud of their field artillery lineage and understand how many oppressed people throughout the world are encouraged by the prospect of liberation by American forces.

He also took a few minutes to recognize the military spouses in attendance.

“To the spouses here tonight, you have my most sincere admiration and respect for your service,” Vangel said. “All of us in this room have known for years how valuable you are as military spouses. I hope you will continue to find the Army experience an enriching one for you and your Families.”

The Fort Sill Garrison commanding general finished with warm wishes for inductees into a prestigious group.

“And congratulations to those of you being inducted into the Order of Molly Pitcher tonight—a great honor and well-deserved recognition,” he finished

As the evening progressed, Sims invited all of the 630 attendees to raise their glasses and salute the field artillery corps with a toast to “the King of Battle.”



Caring for military Families, wounded troops: Our nation's priority

By American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – President Bush recently called on Congress to reward the contributions servicemembers and their Families make every day through better services and laws that let them share unused education benefits and give military spouses hiring preference for federal jobs.

Addressing both houses of Congress during his seventh annual State of the Union address, the president also urged passage of Dole-Shalala Commission recommendations to ensure wounded warriors receive the services they deserve.

The president acknowledged the great sacrifices military Families make as their loved ones serve, and announced new proposals to show appreciation.

“Our military Families also sacrifice for America. They endure sleepless nights and the daily struggle of providing for children while a loved one is serving far from home,” Bush said. “We have a responsibility to provide for them. So I ask you to join me in expanding their access to child care, creating new hiring preferences for military spouses across the federal government, and allowing our troops to transfer their unused education benefits to their spouses or children.”

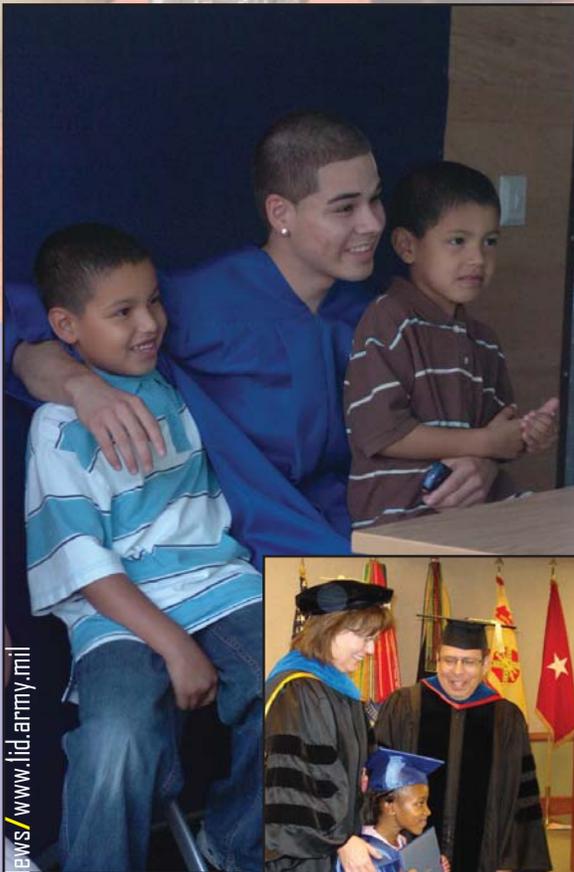
Bush urged Congress to approve legislation that allows servicemembers to transfer unused Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits to their spouses and children. The G.I. Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible veterans for college, technical or vocational courses and other job training. Currently, the Army is the only service that allows its members to transfer those benefits to their children.

The president said he wants all veterans to be able to transfer benefits they have earned to their spouses and children.

Bush also asked Congress to pass a bill creating new hiring preferences across the federal government for military spouses. Under current law, only veterans themselves are entitled to preferences over others in competitive hiring for federal government jobs.

“Our military Families serve our nation, they inspire our nation, and tonight our nation honors them,” he said.

The United States owes that same honor to its veterans, Bush



said, particularly those wounded in the war on terror.

He urged Congress to enact reforms recommended by the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors to ensure they are able to "build lives of hope, promise and dignity."

The Warrior Transition Battalion on Fort Riley was activated Jan. 23.

"We let our Soldiers down," said Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley. "These Warrior Transition units are our Army's way of making things right and ensuring this will never happen again. I guarantee you it will never happen at Fort Riley."

The battalion's mission is to establish and promote conditions for healing and assist Soldiers with the transition either to civilian life or back to a military unit.

About 35 Warrior Transition Units currently exist and the mission of healing Soldiers, physically, psychologically and emotionally is a mission that is high on the Army's priority list.

The president created the commission in March to conduct a comprehensive review of the services returning wounded warriors receive. The commission, co-chaired by former Sen. Bob Dole and former Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala – both of whom attended January's address – released its findings in July.

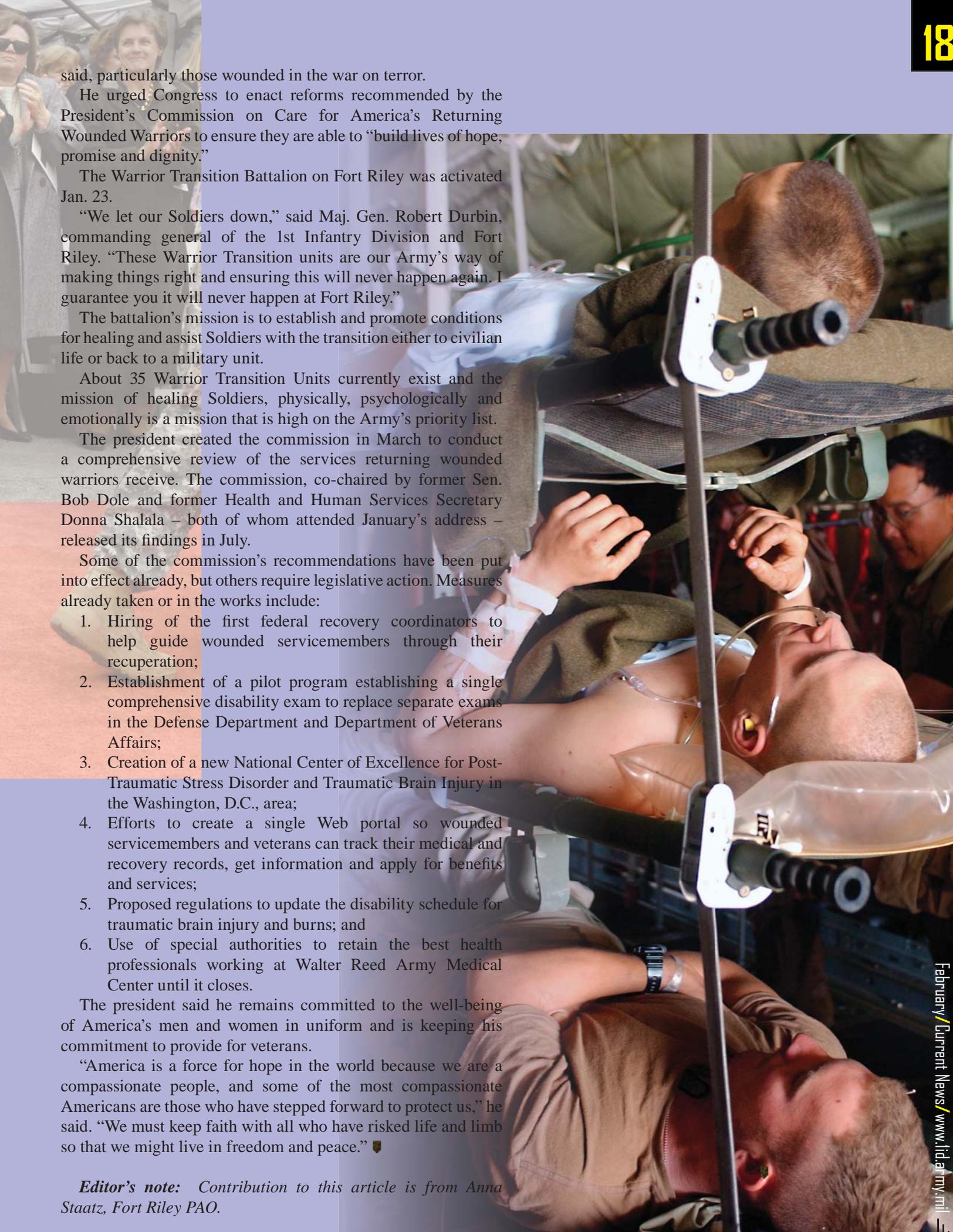
Some of the commission's recommendations have been put into effect already, but others require legislative action. Measures already taken or in the works include:

1. Hiring of the first federal recovery coordinators to help guide wounded servicemembers through their recuperation;
2. Establishment of a pilot program establishing a single comprehensive disability exam to replace separate exams in the Defense Department and Department of Veterans Affairs;
3. Creation of a new National Center of Excellence for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury in the Washington, D.C., area;
4. Efforts to create a single Web portal so wounded servicemembers and veterans can track their medical and recovery records, get information and apply for benefits and services;
5. Proposed regulations to update the disability schedule for traumatic brain injury and burns; and
6. Use of special authorities to retain the best health professionals working at Walter Reed Army Medical Center until it closes.

The president said he remains committed to the well-being of America's men and women in uniform and is keeping his commitment to provide for veterans.

"America is a force for hope in the world because we are a compassionate people, and some of the most compassionate Americans are those who have stepped forward to protect us," he said. "We must keep faith with all who have risked life and limb so that we might live in freedom and peace." 🇺🇸

Editor's note: Contribution to this article is from Anna Staatz, Fort Riley PAO.





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